

THE MISFIT MANIFESTO

The heart, the values, and the full vision of

The Church of the Misfits

Come as you are. Grow into who you were meant to become.

A FREE HANDOUT · PLEASE SHARE FREELY

This is for the misfits.

You were never the problem. You were the prototype.

If you have ever been overlooked, misunderstood, judged, silenced, or wounded inside a religious space — this is for you. If you have ever sat in a pew and felt like you were performing a part instead of being known — this is for you. If you have ever suspected you were made for something more, but never found a place where that calling was recognized, developed, or released — this is especially for you.

The Church of the Misfits is not a church for people who don't belong anywhere. It is a church for people who know they are called to something more. We exist to help you build an open and authentic relationship with your Higher Power while you discover, develop, and activate the gifts, talents, and purpose already placed within you.

Here is the whole idea in one sentence: you belong before you believe, you are welcomed before you are fixed, and you are sent before you are perfect.

Why "Misfits"?

mis·fit */'mis,fit/ noun*

A misfit is not a person who fits nowhere — but a person made for somewhere the world has not built yet. Someone whose gifts, questions, calling, or identity never matched the mold they were handed — not because they are broken, but because they were made for a different picture. A gift the world has not yet learned to receive.

At The Church of the Misfits: family.

The world calls you a misfit when you do not slot into its mold — too much, too different, too questioning, too wounded, or gifted in ways no one asked for. But a misfit is simply a piece that was handed the wrong puzzle. You were never broken. You were made for a different picture. Here, misfits are not the exception. We are the family.

What we believe

These are not fine print. They are the ground we stand on.

- **Everyone has value.** Not earned, not ranked — inherent.
- **Everyone has purpose.** You were made on purpose, for a purpose.
- **Everyone possesses gifts that can be developed.** The seed is already in you.
- **Spiritual growth is a journey.** Not a performance, not a finish line.

- **Questions are welcome.** Doubt is not the enemy of faith — it is often the doorway to it.
- **Healing is possible.** Wherever you were wounded, you can be made whole.
- **Faith and authenticity can coexist.** You never have to wear a mask to be loved here.
- **Belonging comes before perfection.** Come as you are — the growth happens inside the belonging.
- **God is bigger than human labels and divisions.** Bigger than our boxes, denominations, and politics.

Relationship, not religion

Religion is humanity striving to climb back into right standing with God. Relationship is what the whole story has been pointing to all along. God made each of us from a part of Himself — and He longs for His body, His bride, to operate as one.

Unity, though, is not the same as uniformity. We will not agree on everything; disagreement is simply what happens whenever two or more beings come together. What holds us as one is not sameness of opinion but the law of love. We can differ and still be one body, still carry one another, still make it home together.

What you won't find here

Safe places are defined as much by what they keep out as by what they welcome in. So here is what you will not find:

- No judgment of where you have been.
- No fear-and-brimstone used to control you.
- No political agenda dressed up as faith.
- No exclusive club with secret rules.
- No hidden agendas, and no strings attached.
- No pressure to wear a mask, perform, or pretend.

You do not have to clean yourself up to come in. Come as you are — all of you is welcome.

You are welcome here

Vague welcomes have hurt too many people, so let us be specific. You are welcome here — with no conditions:

- If a church has burned, rejected, or manipulated you before.
- If you are part of the LGBTQ+ community and have been told you do not belong.
- If you are full of questions, doubts, and unfinished faith.
- If you are a creative, an artist, an entrepreneur, or a dreamer whose gifts never fit the program.
- If you have been overlooked, silenced, or counted out.

You belong before you believe. There is room for all of you.

Our six values

Six things we will always put first — and the reason each one matters.

Belonging

You belong here before you believe, perform, or have it all figured out. We build belonging first, because no one was ever transformed by a room that made them feel like a stranger.

Growth

Faith is a journey, and we walk it together — one honest step at a time. We are not interested in pretending we have arrived. We are interested in moving forward.

Healing

Wherever you have been wounded — by people, by religion, by life — healing is possible and welcome here. We do not rush it, shame it, or spiritualize past it. We make room for it.

Purpose

Your gifts matter. We help you discover what you are carrying and release it into the world. A misfit is simply a gift the world has not learned to receive yet.

Community

No one was meant to do this alone. Here you will find your people — a place to be known, supported, and sent. Connection is not a program; it is the point.

Transformation

Broken circles become whole. Come as you are — and do not be surprised when you leave changed. Transformation is what happens when belonging, healing, and purpose meet.

Our mission

To create a safe and empowering community where people can belong, heal, grow, and become who they were meant to be — without fear, judgment, denominational politics, or hidden agendas.

Our vision: practicing heaven on earth

We dream of a community of believers who worship and uplift one another — no matter their background, ethnicity, or age.

We are all part of one body, and the body has many gifts. Like the parts of a person, each gift needs the others; none of us reaches the promised land alone. Heaven is a place of perfect unity — so we practice that unity here on earth, as God intended. In that unity we strengthen one another spiritually and carry each other through the tests and trials of this life.

Spirit-led, founded on love

We are Spirit-led, built on a foundation of biblical principles, and everything we do aligns with the law of love. We are gathering Spirit-led resources and a growing library of foundational texts to keep us rooted.

Unity that holds the whole person

Our unity is lived, not just believed: every age worshipping together; every background and ethnicity as one body; each person's gift serving and completing the rest; and a community that supports each member three-fold — body, soul, and mind — carrying one another through every trial.

The church we are becoming

Over the next five to ten years we see the Church of the Misfits becoming a global, online-first movement with in-person gatherings as well — a people-developing platform that discovers and releases gifts, and a force for real outreach and impact.

We envision the church becoming a 24/7 help center, filled with resources that meet every kind of need — with multiple locations for gathering, growth, and joy. There will always be a sacred space at the heart of it, but our focus will always be the whole person.

Heaven is unity. We are learning to live that unity now — so that, together, as one body with many gifts, we all make it home.

Our promises to you

Belief is easy to claim, so here is what you can actually expect from us:

- **We will welcome you** before we ever try to fix you.

- **We will keep your questions safe** — doubt is welcome at the table.
- **We will help you develop your gifts,** never bury them.
- **We will tell you the truth in love,** even when it is hard.
- **We will not leave you alone in a trial.** Ever.
- **We will keep the main thing the main thing:** love.

A word from the founder

This church began as a need before it became a vision. I have known what it is to be called to more and to have no place that could see it — to sit among believers and still feel like a misfit. The Church of the Misfits is the home I wished I had, built so that you would never have to carry your calling, your questions, or your wounds alone.

Come as you are. There is room for you here.

— Joe Mitchell, Founder

The invitation

If any of this stirred something in you, that is not an accident. That is the call you already carry, recognizing a place where it might finally be developed and released.

So consider yourself invited. Come as you are — misfit and all. Bring your questions, your wounds, your gifts, and your doubts. You will not be fixed at the door. You will be welcomed through it.

Belong before you believe. Your gifts matter here. Faith without masks.

— The Church of the Misfits

This handout is free. Print it, share it, hand it to a misfit who needs it.